

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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GOLOVNIN BAY & ELIM SUBDISTRICTS COMMERCIAL SILVER OPENINGS

Norton Sound Subdistrict 2, the Golovnin Bay Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for two 48-hour periods from 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 20 to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 22 and from 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 24 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 26. Norton Sound Subdistrict 3, the Elim Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for two 48-hours from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 21 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 23 and from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 25 to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 27. Permit holders in Subdistricts 2 and 3 are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnets and mesh size is restricted to 6 inches or less.

The rainfall has again affected a number of salmon counting projects in Norton Sound including the counting tower projects on the Niukluk and Kwiniuk Rivers used to manage Subdistricts 2 and 3. Counting operations suspended at both projects early this morning and are currently unable to count because of high water. However, silver salmon escapements to the Kwiniuk and Niukluk Rivers improved leading up to this recent high water event. At Niukluk River, projected escapement of silvers based on early to normal run timing models is 3,400 to 4,900 silvers. At Kwiniuk River, the aerial survey SEG range of 650-1,300 silvers is also expected to be easily achieved based on a projected final tower count estimate of 1,500-1,900 silvers. Early season aerial surveys also showed approximately 3,000 silvers in the lower reach of the Tubutulik River, the other major salmon producing watershed in Elim Subdistrict. Projected silver salmon abundance in the Kwiniuk, Tubutulik and Fish River drainages is now sufficient to warrant additional commercial fishing directed on silver salmon in the Golovnin Bay and Elim Subdistricts. These periods can also be extended by emergency order if inclement weather and high surf conditions continue to curtail fishing effort during the scheduled times.

Good Luck and Good Fishing.